

**Some brief comments on the presence of brown dots in the terminal fascia of *Cyclophora punctaria* (Linn., 1758) (Lep.: Geometridae)**

A female *Cyclophora punctaria* was found resting on the wall of a building near the river Miño in the north-western Spanish city of Orense on 17 August 1995. On being enclosed in a standard pill-box, the specimen laid a total of four ova that evening before expiring.

Although I was confident about the identity of the moth, on consulting Skinner (1984, *Colour identification guide to the moths of the British Isles*. Viking, Middlesex) on my return to the UK, the two specimens illustrated did not match with my own, as the latter example had extra scaling in the outer margin of the forewing, towards the apex, of a greyish-brown, contrasting with the reddishness of the spots on the tornus. The latterly described scaling does appear on the Skinner example. In addition, there was an area of pinkish scaling in the middle of the forewings, this coloration being especially pronounced in the moths which emerged in mid-October (one male and one female emerged, pairing on two occasions, from which resulted several ova).

Skou (1986, *The geometrid moths of north Europe* Vol. 6, Scandinavian Science Press, Denmark) is illustrated with five examples of this species, one of which concurs with mine. Moreover, Skou states the greater likelihood of extra dotting in moths of the second generation, of which my imago was a case in point. However, on 8 August 1995 at a m.v. light in operation at Burnham Beeches, Buckinghamshire, I did not find any similar morphs of this geometrid.—GARETH KING, 22 Stoney Meade, Slough, Berkshire SL1 2YL.

***Cryptophagus fallax* B.—Browne (Col.: Cryptophagidae): a correction**

Regarding this distinctive and (in Britain) very rare *Cryptophagus*, Hyman and Parsons (1994 *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain*, 2: 41. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough) state that the species is known from only three vice-counties, which they give as West Kent, Hertfordshire and Herefordshire based on Johnson, (1988 *Ent. Gaz.* 39: 329-335 (332). This may be puzzling to some, since Fowler (1889 *The Coleoptera of the British Islands*, 3: 323. L. Reeve & Co., London), who correctly recognised the species (then known as *fumatus* Marsh.), listed several well-scattered records. However, Woodroffe (1953 *Ent. mon. Mag.* 89: 236) wrote “. . . there can be no doubt that it [*C. fumatus*] is an extremely rare species in this country, many of the records being based on erroneous determinations”, and for that reason it is best to ignore such of the early records as have not been confirmed.

The omission of Hampshire by Hyman and Parsons is hard to explain, since it is mentioned by Johnson (*loc. cit.*). The late G.E. Woodroffe found the beetle very sparingly in a house at Upton Grey (Woodroffe, 1956 *Ent. mon. Mag.* 92: 138-141) and subsequently in the Police College at Bramshill

– both localities in North Hampshire. The situation in each case was a bat-roost, where *C. fallax* was collected with other arthropods from the accumulated dung, suggesting a specific association. Mr Woodroffe was so good as to send me a specimen from the Bramshill site, dated 5.x.56. I have not seen a published record of this latter occurrence.– A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

### ***Callicera aenea* (Fabr.) (Dip.: Syrphidae) in North Hampshire**

Among the 481 moths attracted to m.v. light at Wake's Cottage, Selborne, on 25 August 1995 was a large golden hoverfly, which reminded me of pictures I had seen of the genus *Callicera* (Morely, 1942 *Trans. Suffolk Nat. Soc.* 5: 14). Mr Nigel Wyatt of the Natural History Museum kindly identified the specimen as *Callicera aenea* Fabr., a species that had been at one time annually recorded from the New Forest and had been found, but irregularly and singly, in localities up to Yorkshire (Colyer and Hammond, 1951 *Flies of the British Isles*, Warne, London; Coe, 1953 *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects: Diptera – Syrphidae*, Royal Entomological Society, London; Stubbs and Falk, 1983 *British hoverflies*, British Entomological and Natural History Society, Reading). Most of the specimens have been observed at flowers and this Selborne occurrence may be the first noted at light. The insect had probably been first drawn to our wild clematis blossom and thence to the light.

*Callicera aenea* seems to be associated with pine woods and the larvae have been found in water-filled holes in pine stumps. As Selborne supports very few pines, this fly may have arrived from sandier habitats. On the other hand, an association with birch may be a possibility.– ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.

### ***Tetheella fluctuosa* (Hb. (Lep.: Thyatiridae) at Selborne, Hampshire**

In Goater (1991 *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, 7(2), Harley Books, Colchester), Hampshire is not cited as a main habitat for the Satin Lutestring, *Tetheella fluctuosa*. Indeed, Goater (1992 *The Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight: additions and corrections*, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough) lists only the following published reliable occurrences: Farringdon (early 1950s), Whitehill (1953, 1955), Alice Holt (1969), Bordon (1970, 1971, 1973) – all the foregoing in VC12 – and Winchester (1983) in VC11.

It was therefore very interesting to capture and photograph four specimens at my cottage m.v. light in Selborne on 7, 13, 14 and 26 July 1995. As there are extensive stands of birch on Selborne Common and in Priory Wood, and as the specimens were in fresh condition, this species could well be breeding in the vicinity.– ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.